



Ministry Update for the Browns  
October 2023

## UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON!

UMW is a school of 5,000 students in Fredericksburg, VA. There are no Cru staff assigned there, but a dedicated group of students wanted to start a group. The first meeting was just a few weeks ago and they had six and the second week it grew to twenty! They were in need of more connection though.

We heard of their plight from a staff member whose role is to distance coach campuses without a staff presence, and we invited them to our retreat in order enable them to meet with other students from other campuses and be part of a larger community. Four students attended and they had the time of their lives! Two of the students actually realized they had never made the personal decision to follow Christ, and did so at our retreat. Praise God!

UMW students are returning to campus empowered with ideas and strategies they learned from their time at Lynchburg Cru's retreat. We are excited to see how the Lord will use them on their campus!



Jena and the UMW students

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## STARTING WELL, GLOBAL FOCUS WEEK, FALL RETREAT

Fall is here and the pace is fast! With meeting new students at Liberty, CVCC, Randolph College and Sweet Briar College, we have been very busy sharing the mission and vision of Cru to students and faculty in the Lynchburg area.

### TABLING



With gear to give out and prizes to win, we connected with new students at Liberty, CVCC, Randolph and Sweet Briar College.

This fall we have had great opportunities to share about Cru with students, connecting with over a thousand students at each event. The result has been an increase in group sizes at every campus. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to minister to so many!



### GLOBAL FOCUS WEEK

With eight visiting staff from Florida, New Hampshire Delaware, and Sweden, we got to share about Cru at Liberty and the many opportunities students have both locally and internationally. This is always a great time for us as we get to speak in multiple classrooms, dorms, and RA trainings! As a result of all that we now have over 400 contacts to follow-up that are interested in being part of local Cru, going on trips and working for Cru after they graduate. Our weekly meeting was focused on global missions and there were 83 in attendance, the largest meeting we've ever had!



### FALL RETREAT



Fall Retreat was the best EVER! After four consecutive years of rainy Fall Retreat weekends, this year the weather was PERFECT, and we

were able to do fun team building events like ropes courses, archery tag, paintball and more!

Our speaker Mike Bost and his wife Michelle (Cru staff from Boston—we have known them for almost 25 years and Mike married us!) spoke in a relatable and applicable manner for our students, encouraging them in their wrestling with God and providing helpful strategies for remaining in the Word and fellowship. We had 85 people in attendance (twice as many as last year!) and had three people come to faith in Christ!



## PRAYERS FOR THE BROWNS

- Please pray for University of Mary Washington's movement to establish itself well and to become a place where the gospel is made known!
- Please pray that we would have margin to follow up with the many students we have met from tabling events and Global Focus Week!
- Please pray for us that we would lead our team well, and that we would love our family well, too.
- Praise the Lord for the three students that made decisions for Christ at our Fall Retreat, and all that the Lord did that weekend!

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man. — Colossians 3:23

We love and appreciate you!  
In Christ, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel